

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the title to read as follows:

APPARATUS FOR FLASH CARBONIZATION OF BIOMASS

At page 1, please delete the paragraph at lines 2-4 and insert the following replacement paragraph:

**CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:**

This application is a divisional of prior application number 10/152,276, filed on May 20, 2002, now U.S. Patent 6,790,317, which claims priority to provisional application serial no. 60/302,100, filed June 28, 2001.

At page 17, please replace the Abstract with the following:

**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus for performing a low-energy input process for the pyrolytic conversion of biomass to charcoal or carbonized charcoal is provided. The apparatus comprises a housing and a sealable opening for receiving a removable canister, a heater located at the distal end of the housing, a first valved gas exit at the proximal end, a second valved gas exit at the distal end, a valved air entry orifice for introducing air at the proximal end of the canister, and insulation surrounding at least a portion of the sides of the canister.